



Blood Culture Collection Guidelines Catheter Blood Cultures 7/2010

Blood Culture Collection Policy:

Each blood specimen should be placed into a separate PedsPlus blood culture bottle. If antibiotics will be started or changed two blood cultures should be collected using separate line preparations and separate blood culture bottles. When followed correctly, this will allow for better interpretation of a single positive blood culture that grows an organism that could be a normal skin flora contaminant.

Volume recommendation:

Collect at least 1 ml of blood with one additional ml of blood for each year of age for a maximum of 10 ml. (See Table below) Volumes of blood less than 1 ml are generally insufficient for the accurate exclusion of bacteremia. Although we never reject a blood culture, the volume of blood is critical (more is better).

Collection Procedure:

- Step 1 - Clean top of blood culture bottle with alcohol prep pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.
- Step 2 - Set blood transfer device onto top of blood culture bottle.
- Step 3 - Attach blue threaded lock onto syringe to access line.
- Step 4 - Clean needle-less catheter hub with alcohol prep pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.
- Step 5 - Attach to line and draw off discard. Clamp line. Remove syringe from blue-threaded lock.
- Step 6 - Attach specimen syringe to blue-threaded lock and draw off blood for culture.
- Step 7 - Connect specimen syringe to blood culture transfer device and allow blood to flow into bottle:
Pink bottle - 1-3 ml Blue bottle - >3 ml up to 10 ml
- Step 8 - Flush line per procedure.
- Step 9 - Remove transfer device from blood culture bottle and discard with syringes and blue-threaded lock into sharps container. If drawing more than one culture, reprep catheter hub and use a new transfer device and blood culture bottle for each.

Age	Minimum mls Needed Per Each Blood Culture	Blood Culture Bottle Type
0y (less than 1y)	1ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
1y	2ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
2y	3ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
3y	4ml	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus
etc.	etc	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus
9y and older	10ml	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus

For more information, review the associated Blood Culture policy published on Planet TCH
<http://planetch/policiesfitz/general/pdf/5801.pdf>